

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5509

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8603

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, AR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT PERON

1. JUNE 15-20 VISIT OF ARGENTINE VICE PRESIDENT ISABEL PERON TO ROME WAS LONG ON CEREMONY AND LARGELY DEVOID OF SUBSTANCE. ACCORDING FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL, VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT LEONE, PRIME MINISTER RUMOR, DEFENSE MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND OTHER ITALIAN OFFICIALS PRODUCED NOTHING NEW IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER MORO, NEITHER VICE PRESIDENT NOR MEMBERS OF HER ENTORAGE HAD ANY SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL CONTACT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. ONLY VAGUELY CONCRETE RESULTS OF VISIT, ACCORDING FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE, WAS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR VISITS BY PRESIDENT LEONE AND PERON AT UNSPECIFIED FUTURE DATES.

2. FONOFF SOURCE SURMISED THAT PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF VISIT, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED BY PRESIDENT PERON'S PERSONAL SECRETARY LOPEZ REGA AND NOT BY ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WAS FOR IMPACT ON ARGENTINE DOMESTIC SCENE. ACCORDING SOURCE, PRESIDENT PERON DESIRED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT GOA HAS A FOREIGN POLICY DESPITE CURRENT PRE-OCCUPATION WITH DOMESTIC CONCERNS.

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3. MEETING OF VICE PRESIDENT WITH ANDREOTTI HAD NO SIGNIFICANCE

IN MILITARY SENSE AND WAS ARRANGED ON BASIS OF PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WHICH HAD DEVELOPED DURING VISITS BY PERONS TO ITALY DURING ANDREOTTI'S TENURE AS PRIME MINISTER AND ANDREOTTI'S PRESENCE AS GOI REPRESENTATIVE AT PERON INAUGURATION CEREMONIES.

4. ON JUNE 19 VICE-PRESIDENT PERON HAD PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH POPE PAUL, WHICH WAS PURELY PROTOCOLARY IN NATURE. COMMENT: VATICAN WAS PLEASED WITH OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE MRS. PERON, ESPECIALLY TO COUNTERBALANCE ANY NEGATIVE FALLOUT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN WHEN POPE WAS UNWILLING TO SEE PERON WHO VISITED ROME PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO POWER. VATICAN HAS INFORMED US THEY CONVINCED REASON FOR GOA NOT REPLACING ITS AMBASSADOR TO HOLY SEE FOR OVER ONE YEAR DUE EXCLUSIVELY TO DISARRAY IN ARGENTINE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

5. ITALIAN PRESS, WHICH PAID MINIMUM ATTENTION TO VISIT, HAS NOT CONFIRMED EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT VISIT TO ROME WAS FIRST STOP ON 15-DAY SWING THROUGH SEVERAL EUROPEAN CAPITALS, INCLUDING MADRID, BERN AND POSSIBLY PARIS. FONOFF SOURCE WAS ALSO UNINFORMED WHETHER FURTHER VISITS WERE ENVISAGED.VOLPE

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